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TAGS: [EAIR](#) [ECON](#) [EFIN](#) [EINV](#) [PGOV](#) [PK](#)  
SUBJECT: GOP ACCEPTS PHASE 1 OF DHS API/PNR MOI

Reftels: (A) ISLAMABAD 1587 (B) STATE 52699

Classified by: Anne W. Patterson for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

11. (U) This is an action request, see paragraph 5.

12. (C) Summary: Following up on the proposed Advanced Passenger Information/Passenger Name Record (API/PNR) Memorandum of Intent outlined in Reftel B, on July 21 EconOfs met with Imtiaz Kazi, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Interior responsible for Pakistani civil aviation, as well as an official from Pakistan's National Crisis Management Center. Kazi said the GOP interagency had approved Phase 1 of the API/PNR project and indicated that, if acceptable to the USG, this part of the project might be a deliverable during the Prime Minister's upcoming visit to Washington. Kazi indicated the GOP interagency needed additional time to consider the remainder of the project and asked for information regarding what other countries, particularly countries in the region, are cooperating with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in this regard. End summary.

13. (C) Additional Secretary Kazi told EconOfs that the GOP interagency had approved Phase 1 of the proposed API/PNR project, which consists of: 1) visits by DHS technical teams in order to assess GOP technical capabilities for collecting and processing API/PNR data, help GOP authorities lay the groundwork with airlines, and assist the GOP in setting up necessary systems; 2) GOP issuance of a public legal requirement for airlines, when directed, to provide the GOP with API and PNR data; and 3) transmission of API and PNR data from all Pakistani International Airlines (PIA) flights, as well as flights of one other mutually agreed airline to the Pakistan Data Center and DHS in real time. Kazi said the GOP is already passing much of this information to the USG informally. He noted that, if this is acceptable to the USG, the GOP would likely be willing to announce its intent to begin Phase 1 of this project during the Prime Minister's upcoming visit to Washington.

13. (C) Kazi noted the GOP might not need technical assistance if the cost of the project is not great but said that, given Pakistan's current weak economy, significant cost would require U.S. assistance. The National Crisis Management Center official noted problems with confusing DHS data entry requirements involving passengers living in Pakistan but holding passports from other countries (such as Saudi Arabia.) He said these have resulted in PIA being fined and expressed a desire to work with DHS to alleviate this problem.

14. (C) Kazi indicated the GOP interagency needed more time to

consider the remainder of the project. He noted that it would assist GOP decision-making to know which other countries, particularly countries in the region, are cooperating with DHS in this regard.

15. (C) Action request: Post requests Washington agencies' guidance whether the USG is willing to announce our intent to commence Phase 1 during the Prime Minister's upcoming visit to Washington, and if so, how soon DHS is able to send technical teams and how much funding will be available for technical assistance. Funding, as Post has stressed before, will be a critical issue, and we cannot fund this project out of Post's existing programs. Regarding the remainder of the project, Post requests guidance on how to respond to Kazi's inquiry about what other countries, particularly those in the region, are cooperating with DHS in this regard. End action request.

PATTERSON